

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 NEA-11 IO-13 PA-01 H-01 L-03
SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07
OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10
NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 /118 W
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R 091012Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6975
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 09704

USADB

FOR NAC AGENCIES

EO 11652:GDS
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, ADB
SUBJECT: PROPOSED ADB TA FOR INDUSTRIAL SURVEY OF SOUTH
PACIFIC

REF: A) TREASURY 78-79
- B) PORT MORESBY 816
- C) WELLINGTON 2908

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT REFTEL B, USADB MADE DISCRETE
INQUIRIES ABOUT COMMONWEALTH FUND FOR TECHNICAL
COOPERATION STUDY AND PNG'S AGREEMENT TO THE STUDY. MR.
MAZHAR ALI KHAN, ADB OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR THE SOUTH
PACIFIC, WAS MOST FORTHCOMING IN HIS RESPONSE TO US.

2. REGARDING THE COMMONWEALTH FUND'S INDUSTRIAL SURVEY
OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC, HE REPORTED THAT ADB MISSION
PERSONNEL DISCUSSED THAT STUDY WITH THE PROPER AUTHORITIES
AND, IN FACT, REVISED THE BANK'S TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR
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ITS SURVEY. MR KHAN ALSO REPORTED THAT THE STARTING TIME
FOR THE ADB STUDY WAS RESCHEDULED AT THE SAME TIME TO
COINCIDE WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF RESULTS FROM THE
COMMONWEALTH FUND STUDY.

3. REGARDING PNG'S FORMAL AGREEMENT TO THE ADB STUDY,
MR KHAN CITED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE LETTER
NUMBER 73-2-1 DATED FEBRUARY 14, IN WHICH PNG CONCURRENCE

WAS GIVEN FOR THE STUDY.

4. FYI: USADB IS MINDFUL OF THE ATTITUDE OF SOME PNG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ABOUT THE STUDY AS WE WERE MADE AWARE OF THIS IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH ADB STAFF. HOWEVER, THERE IS A MORE BASIC ELEMENT INVOLVED HERE AND THAT IS THE ADB'S RELATIONSHIP VIS-A-VIS THE SOUTH PACIFIC COUNTRIES. THERE IS A FEELING AMONG SOME OF THE COUNTRIES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC BASIN THAT THEY HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED BY THE BANK. THE RECENT CONFERENCE OF THE SPEC SERVED TO UNDERSCORE THIS MATTER. MOREOVER, THE BANK, AT THE URGING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, INCLUDING THE USED, IS FOCUSING SPECIAL ATTENTION ON THE AREA, BUT IT IS EXPERIENCING SOME DIFFICULTY IN IDENTIFYING A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF FINANCIALLY SOUND AND ECONOMICALLY VIABLE PROJECTS THAT IT IS WILLING TO FINANCE. WHILE THE INDUSTRIAL SURVEY MAY NOT BE A UTOPIA, ONE MUST ADMIT THAT IT IS A REASONABLE, ALBEIT MODEST EFFORT TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL PROJECTS THAT MAY BE FINANCED BY MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE SECTOR INSTITUTIONS. WESTCOTT

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Message Attributes

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